COPY

OF THE

ARTICLES

OF THE

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,

IN

SOUTH-SHIELDS,

Eſtabliſhed the 4th of March, 1794.

FOR MUTUAL RELIEF,

AND ALSO

FOR THE RELIEF OF THEIR

WIDOWS, CHILDREN, &c

SOUTH-SHIELDS:

PRINTED BY G. DITCHBURN.

M,DCC,XCIV

BRITISH MUSEUM

ARTICLES
OF
AGREEMENT

INDENTED, had, made, concluded and agreed upon, this 4th. Day of March, in the 34th. Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third, by the Grace of God, of great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the Year of our Lord 1794; BETWEEN *Joseph Bulmer, John Siddall, Thomas Wilson, Samuel Wilson, William Boak, William Bone, and Samuel Nicholson, all of South Shields in the County of Durham, Gentlemen, Merchants, and Landmen, and the several other Persons also, Merchants and Landmen, who shall on or before the Day of the Date hereof, or at any other time hereafter, be admitted into and become Members of this Society, and shall Sign, Seal and duly execute* PARTIES

 these

theſe Preſents, of the one Part, and Richard Rain, of South Shields aforeſaid, Gentleman of the other Part.

IN an Æra like the preſent, when the Generality of Mankind, poſſeſs Talents, and enjoy Sentiments far ſuperior to thoſe of former Ages; we are impell'd by a glorious impulſe of the Mind, to admire the various Inſtitutions which are daily Eſtabliſhed, for the univerſal Benefit and Advantage of the community, and when we maturely conſider Individuals poſſeſſing ſuch God-like Principles, we cannot help being induced to think, that the wiſe Diſpenſation of Providence, has peculiarly defuſed its divine Attributes in favor of the preſent Generation, it is therefore our duty not to looſe ſight of thoſe Philanthropic and Benevolent Sentiments of diffuſive Charity, which being founded upon ſo good a Baſis, will ever operate as a Criterion for the Welfare, Peace, and Happineſs of Mankind in General, *Common Obſervation* has taught us, that from the va-

rious

rious viciſitudes of Fortune which daily preſent themſelves to our view, we ought to be impelled to embrace any Meaſure which may have a Tendency to obviate, or at leaſt leſſen, incidental Evils, and turn aſide the Iron Rod of Poverty and Indigency, which might otherwiſe aſſail the Welfare and Happineſs of ourſelves, and deareſt Relatives, for there is no ſituation in Life, however exalted, that To morrow's dawn may not check by Misfortune. The preſent Aſſociation is intended to ſubvert, or at leaſt alleviate ſuch Misfortunes, as are above alluded to, and tend to produce a comfortable proviſion for the Perſons and Families of all thoſe who ſhall become Members of this Society, upon the Terms and Conditions hereinafter particularly ſpecified. We the ſaid Joſeph Bulmer, John Siddall, Thomas Wilſon, Samuel Wilſon, William Boak, William Bone and Samuel Nicholſon, for ourſelves ſeverally and not jointly, and for our ſeveral and reſpective Heirs, Executors

Parties, covenant with each other, to perform, &c.

and Adminiſtrators, do covenant and agree to and with the ſaid Richard Rain, his Executors and Adminiſtrators, and alſo to and with each other, ſeverally and reſpectively, and his and their ſeveral and reſpective Heirs, Executors, and Adminiſtrators, by theſe Preſents in manner following (that is to ſay) That this Aſſociation be held under the Title of the *Benevolent Society*, and that theſe Preſents ſhall be and continue in full force ſo long as Fifteen of the Members or Parties to this Aſſociation, of the firſt Part, ſhall chuſe to remain and continue as Members thereof, and keep and perform the ſeveral Agreements, and duly make the ſeveral Payments, on his and their Parts, hereby agreed to be paid, kept, done and performed, and alſo conform to ſuch Bye-Law, or Bye-Laws, Determination, Order or Orders, as a majority of the Members preſent at every Quarterly or Annual Meeting, ſhall from time to time think expedient to make, and which ſaid Bye-Law or Bye-Laws, ſhall be inſerted in a

Benevolent Society.

Book

Book to be kept for that Purpoſe.

THAT every Perſon or Perſons wiſhing to become a Member or Members of this Aſſociation, ſhall and are hereby required to be a Reputable Tradeſman or Landman, and in caſe any Member or Members, ſhall at any time during the continuance of this Society, be under the neceſſity of Working in the capacity of a Journeyman, ſuch Member or Members, ſhall from thenceforth ſo long as he or they ſhall be ſo employed, pay to the Fund of this Aſſociation, the ſum of nine Shillings for every three Calendar Months.

Members reduced, to pay 9s. per Quarter, into the Fund.

THAT a good and ſufficient Box or Cheſt, ſhall be provided to hold the Money, which ſhall from time to time accumulate to the Fund of this Aſſociation, and alſo the Books, Papers and Writings, and every matter which ſhall be found neceſſary for conducting the Affairs of this Society, and which ſhall have three Locks, each of a different Conſtruction, and a Key to each Lock, and which ſhall be delivered to three reſpective

Box or Cheſt to be provided, and to have 3 Locks

reſpective Members or Parties hereto of the firſt Part, who ſhall be nominated for that purpoſe, by a majority of the company, preſent at any Meeting to be fixt for that purpoſe, and which Box or Cheſt, ſhall be commited to the care and charge of ſuch Innkeeper, or other Perſon or Perſons as a majority of the Members ſhall think proper, provided that the Perſon or Perſons ſo nominated, for the purpoſe aforeſaid, enter into and execute a Bond with ſufficient Sureties, and under and ſubject to ſuch Penalty or Penalties as the major part of the Members ſhall think neceſſary for the ſafe production of the ſame Box or Cheſt, with the contents thereof, and which ſhall never be opened or ſhut, but in the preſence of the two Stewards, the Clerk, and the keeper thereof, his Wife or ſome other Perſon employed by him for that purpoſe.

Such Innkeeper, as ſhall have the charge of the Box &c. to enter into a Bond, for the ſafe production thereof.

THAT every Perſon inclinable to become a Member of this Society, within three Months from the Date hereof,

ſhall

ſhall depoſit the ſum of Five Shillings in the hands of the Secretary, which ſum ſhall be paid into the Fund of this Aſſociation, at the next Quarterly Meeting, after the Receipt thereof; if after three Months and within ſix Months, ſhall depoſit ſeven Shillings and ſix-pence; if above ſix Months and within nine Months, ten Shillings and ſix-pence, and at or after the Annual Meeting next, after the Date hereof, one Guinea, to be paid into the hands of the Secretary, which ſum or ſums of Money ſhall be paid into the Fund, at the next Quarterly Meeting after the Receipt thereof; and if on the Ballot of any Perſon or Perſons, ſo making ſuch depoſit as aforeſaid, he or they ſhall be rejected, that then and in ſuch caſe, the Money he or they ſhall have ſo depoſited, ſhall be returned, and it is hereby agreed, that a majority of black Balls, or black Beans ſhall be ſufficient to exclude any Perſon from his admiſſion into this Society.

Perſons entering within 3 Months to pay 5s. entrance Money, and ſo on in like manner, for 1ſt. twelve Months.

THAT a Meeting of this Aſſociation,

tion, ſhall be held at the Houſe of Mr Richard Rain, Innkeeper, in the Market Place, South Shields, (or at any other Houſe, as the majority of the Members preſent at any Meeting, ſhall from time to time agree upon) at ſix o'Clock in the Evening, when any Perſon wiſhing to become a Member, may make application and be Balloted for agreeable to the Rules before eſtabliſhed for that purpoſe, but no Perſon need apply whoſe Age exceeds Forty-Five Years.

Members making application, to be ballotted for at the Meetings.

None admited above the Age of 45 Years.

THAT each Member ſhall pay or cauſe to be paid at each Quarterly Meeting into the Hands of the Secretary of this Society, the ſum of fifteen Shillings, and expend four-pence, and if any Member or Members of this Society, ſhall neglect to pay his or their Quarterly payments, for the ſpace of three Calendar Months, from the time the ſame ought to be paid, he or they ſhall for ſuch neglect, forfeit and pay the ſum of two Shillings and Six-pence; and if he or they neglect to pay

Members to pay 15s. at each Quarterly Meeting, and expend 4d.

his

his or their Quarterly payments for the period of ſix Months, he or they ſhall for ſuch neglect, forfeit and pay the ſum of five Shillings, and if he or they ſhall make default, in his or their Quarterly payments for the ſpace of nine Months, he or they ſhall for ſuch neglect, forfeit the ſum of ten Shillings and ſix-pence, and in caſe he or they ſhall neglect as aforeſaid, or to pay the forfeitures before mentioned for the ſpace of three Months from that time, that then and in ſuch caſe, he or they ſhall be expelled from this Society, and forfeit all the Money that he or they ſhall have paid into the Fund of this Society, and ſhall be incapable of being again admitted into the ſame, unleſs ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſhall offer himſelf as a new Member, and be Balloted and choſen accordingly, and pay his depoſit Money for that purpoſe, and it is agreed that a Clerk ſhall be appointed to keep the Accounts and tranſact the Buſineſs of this Society, and ſhall be allowed ſuch Annual ſum, as the major part of the

Members making default of payments, ſubject to fines.

Clerk to be appointed.

Members preſent at any Meeting to be called for that purpoſe, ſhall think proper to ſtipulate, and at every Meeting ſuch Clerk ſhall attend, either himſelf, or by a ſufficient Deputy, and in default thereof, he ſhall forfeit and pay the ſum of five Shillings for every ſuch neglect.

Members becoming blind, &c. to receive 8s. per Week for 1 Year, next after his or their affliction, and 6s. per Week afterwards.

THAT if any Member or Members of this Society ſhall happen any Misfortune, or become Sick, Blind, Lame, or Impotent, and be thereby unable to follow his or their Profeſſion, Buſineſs or Employment, ſuch Member or Members, ſhall individually receive from and out of the Fund of this Society, the ſum of eight Shillings per Week, which payment ſhall commence at the expiration of one Weeks Illneſs, and which ſum of eight Shillings per Week, ſhall continue to be paid to ſuch Member or Members of this Society, during his or their Sickneſs or Affliction, for Fifty-two Weeks, and at the expiration of which (either in ſucceſſion, or at different periods) then ſuch Sick or Afflicted Member or Members, ſhall

ſhall be paid the ſum of ſix-Shillings per Week, for and during his or their natural Life or Lives, provided he, or they are rendered incapable to make a proviſion for the ſupport of himſelf or themſelves, and his or their Family or Families

THAT if any Member or Members of this Society ſhall happen to die, after he or they ſhall have been a Member or Members of this Aſſociation, for the ſpace of one Year, his or their Widow or Widows, ſhall and may be at liberty to receive out of the Fund of this Society immediately after her or their Huſband or Huſbands death, the ſum of five Pounds, to be deducted or detained out of her or their firſt Years Annuity, when the ſame ſhall become due, and that every Widow or Widows of ſuch deceaſed Member or Members, ſhall receive and be paid out of the Fund of this Society, the ſum of ten Pounds a Year, payable at the end of every three Months from that period, the firſt quarterly Payment to commence and be made at the end of

Members dying after being one Year a Member, the Widow of each deceas'd Member, to receive £5. immediately after ſuch deceaſe.

And each Widow to be paid £10 per Year, payable Quarterly.

And when the Fund is £1000. £15. per Annum.

nine Months next after the deceaſe of ſuch Member or Members, and when the Fund of this Society ſhall amount to one Thouſand Pounds, the Widow of ſuch deceaſed Member ſhall receive fifteen Pounds a Year, and when the ſaid Fund ſhall amount to Two Thouſand Pounds, each Widow ſhall receive twenty Pounds a Year, ſo long as ſhe or they ſhall continue the Widow or Widows of ſuch deceaſed Member or Members, and if any Widow or Widows of any Member or Members of this Society ſhall happen to die, leaving a Child or Children, under eighteen Years of age, ſuch Child or Children, ſhall be entitled to receive out of the Fund of this Society, the ſame Annuity or Annuities as the Widow or Widows of ſuch deceaſed Member or Members would have been entitled to, until ſuch Child or Children ſhall attain the age of eighteen Years, and in caſe any ſuch Child or Children being Orphans, ſhall, (tho above eighteen Years of age) be incapable of getting a livelihood, by reaſon of lameneſs, blindneſs,

And when £2000. £20. per Year, to be paid ſo long as ſhe ſhall remain the Widow of ſuch deceaſed Member.

Widows dying, leaving a Child or Children, under 18 Years of Age, ſuch Child or Children, to receive the ſame Annuity as ſuch deceaſed Widow would have been intitled to.

Such Child or Children being Orphans, to be paid 2s. 6d.

blindneſs, or other Misfortunes acquired before that age, than every ſuch Child, ſhall be paid a ſum not leſs than two Shillings and ſix-pence, a Week, for and during his or her natural Life, and any Member or Members as aforeſaid, leaving no Wife or Child, but ſhall leave a Father or Mother, ſuch Father or Mother, ſhall be intitled to receive from and out of the Fund of this Society, the ſum of eight Pounds a Year, for and during the term of his or their natural Lives, or the Life of the longeſt liver of them; and in making any ſuch payments, regard ſhall be had to the Fund, and growing contributions, ſo that they ſhall not be exceeded, by making a proportionable deduction, from all or any the payments before mentioned; and in caſe any Member or Members of this Society ſhall happen to die, not having been a party or parties hereto for the term of one Year, the Money he or they ſhall have paid into the Fund of this Society, ſhall be returned to his or their Widow or Widows,

per Week, for Life.

Members dying, leaving no Wife or Child, but leaving a Father or Mother, ſuch Father or Mother, to receive £8. per Year for Life.

Regard to be had to the Fund, upon ſuch Payments being made.

Any Member dying before he has been a Party hereto for a whole Year, the Money he ſhall have paid, to be returned to his Widow, &c.

dows, Child or Children, Father or Mother, or to ſuch of them as ſhall be then living, and on payment of any ſuch Money, each Member of this Society, ſhall pay into the Fund, the ſum of one Shilling.

THAT all motions or matters relative to this Society (not ſettled by the Committee or any five or more of them) ſhall be effectually carried into execution, by the votes of a majority of the Members preſent at ſuch Meeting; and if any Member or Members ſhall propoſe to break up the company or Society, or to ſhare the Money out of the Fund, or ſhall not agree to the determination, Orders, or Bye-Laws of the Committee, or any five or more of them for the time being, or to any matter regularly voted and carried as aforeſaid (tho' not contained in theſe Articles) or ſhall receive any benefit from the Fund unworthily, or ſhall do any matter or thing whatſoever, tending to deceive, defraud or injure the Members of this Society, all or any Member or Members, ſo offending ſhall

Members propoſing to break up the Company, &c. or receiving any Benefit from the Fund unworthily, &c. to be expelled, and forfeit all the Money he or they ſhall have paid.

ſhall be expelled and excluded from this Society, by the votes of the majority of the Members preſent at every Quarterly or Annual Meeting, and ſhall forfeit all the Money, he or they ſhall have then paid into the Fund of this Society; and if any Member or Members of this Society, reſide at or within three Miles, of South Shields ſhall refuſe to act as a Committee-man or Committee-men, when elected, he or they ſhall forfeit the ſum of ten Shillings and ſix-pence, for his or their refuſal; and alſo in caſe any one or more of the Committee for the time being, ſhall neglect or refuſe to attend at any Meeting (unleſs prevented by Sickneſs or Buſineſs, particularly requiring his or their attendance, at home, or abroad, only excepted) after notice to him or them given by the Clerk of this Aſſociation, he or they ſhall forfeit and pay for every ſuch neglect or refuſal the ſum of two Shillings and ſix pence, and each Member being alſo regularly ſummoned, and ſhall make default (except as before

Members reſiding within 3 Miles of So. Shields, refuſing to act as Committee-men, when elected, to forfeit 10. 6d.

Committee-men, neglecting to attend Meetings, fined 2s. 6d. each.

Members neglecting to attend the Meeting, to be fined 1s. each.

fore is excepted) ſhall forfeit and pay the ſum of one Shilling.

Members ſtriking at each other, fined 10. 6d.

THAT if any Member ſtrike at another Member in anger or paſſion, at any time or place, ſuch Member ſhall forfeit the ſum of ten Shillings and ſix-pence, if both Members ſtrike at each other, they ſhall forfeit and pay the ſum of ten Shillings and ſix-pence each; and if any Member at any Meeting of this Society, ſwear or talk obſcenely, or not keep ſilence when demanded, ſuch Member or Members ſo offending, ſhall forfeit the ſum of ſix-pence each, to be paid into the Fund of this Society.

Members Swearing, &c. at any Meeting, fined 6d. each.

Members knowing any reaſon why any Perſon, ſhould not be admitted a Member, and not divulging the ſame, to the Members then preſent to forfeit 1s. each.

THAT if any Perſon or Perſons propoſing to become a Member or Members of this Society, and any Member thereof, know that an Objection ought to be made to the admiſſion of ſuch Perſon or Perſons, ſuch Member or Members, not devulging the ſame to the Members then preſent, ſhall pay into the Fund reſpectively the ſum of one Shilling each. And it is hereby agreed that whatever Member

ber or Members appears to have divulged at any time after, the reaſon of ſuch Perſon or Perſons not being admitted a Member of this Society, he or they ſhall be immediately fined one Guinea, and upon his or their refuſing to pay the ſaid fine (without producing ſufficient proof, of his or their Innocence, to the ſatisfaction of a majority of the Members of this Aſſociation, who ſhall attend being reſpectively ſummon'd) he or they ſhall be excluded from this Society, and forfeit the whole Money he or they ſhall have then paid into the Fund of this Society

Any Member divulging ſame afterwards, to forfeit 1 Guinea.

And refuſing to pay the fine, to be excluded

THAT if any Member or Members ſhall reflect upon another, for not having paid ſo much Money to the Fund, as he or any other Member, hath paid, ſuch Member ſhall forfeit and pay to the Fund, the ſum of five Shillings for every ſuch offence.

If any Member reflect upon another Member, for not having paid ſo much to the fund, as he or any other Member, ſhall forfeit 5s. for every ſuch offence

THAT for the better regulation of this Society, it is hereby agreed, that out of the Members of this Aſſociation, there ſhall annually be elected by Ballot, a committee of nine Members,

A Committee of nine Members to be appoint-

ed annualy, to tranſact the Buſineſs

to conduct and manage all the Affairs, Accounts, and Tranſactions of the ſame (in which election, the Members ſhall vote perſonally) to be appointed in the manner herein after mentioned, ſuch election to be had by the majority of the Members preſent, on the firſt Tueſday in the Month of March, in each Year, at the Houſe where this Aſſociation is kept, and the ſaid Joſeph Bulmer, John Siddall, Thomas Wilſon, Samuel Wilſon, William Boak, William Bone, and Samuel Nicholſon, ſhall be and are hereby appointed the preſent committee of this Society, until the firſt Tueſday in the Month of March now next enſuing; and that the preſent committee and every future committee, (for the time being) of this Society, ſhall act until a new committee be yearly choſen, in order that the Buſineſs may not be retarded or delayed; and if any committee-man, ſhall happen to die, before the firſt Tueſday in the Month of March, next, or before any new election in any future Year, during the continuance of this Society

Annual Meetings to be held on the firſt Tueſday in the Month of March, in each Year.

Preſent Committee.

If any Committee-man die, another to be choſen within 14 Days, next after his deceaſe.

Society, another Member ſhall be choſen within fourteen Days, next after ſuch deceaſe, by a majority of the Members, and a meeting of the Members ſhall be called for that purpoſe, by the committee then exiſting, or the major part of them, before the expiration of the ſaid fourteen Days; but if ſuch exiſting Committee ſhall neglect or refuſe to call ſuch Meeting, before the expiration of the ſaid fourteen Days, then it ſhall and may be lawful for any Member to call a Meeting of the other Members, after the ſaid fourteen Days ſhall be expired, to go upon and make ſuch new Election, and a Book ſhall be provided to inſert ſuch Orders and Determinations as the Committee ſhall come to, which ſhall be called the Book of Orders, and every Order or Determination of any five or more of ſuch Committee, reſpecting the Buſineſs of the Company or Society, and which ſhall be inſerted in the ſaid Book, ſhall be binding and concluſive to all the other Members, and ſhall not be annulled or reverſed, but

Meeting to be called for that purpoſe

but by a majority of the whole Members or Parties hereto of the firſt part, and at every Annual Meeting, a Dinner ſhall be provided, and each Member then preſent, ſhall receive out of the Fund of this Society, two-Shillings in order to defray the expence thereof, and that the reſidue of the expences ſhall be paid by even and equal ſhares and proportions, by and amongſt ſuch Member or Members, as ſhall attend ſuch Meeting, but no Member ſhall be allowed to ſend a proxy at ſuch Annual Meeting, but if any Member or Members be prevented by ſickneſs, or other Misfortune, to attend the ſaid Annual Meeting, the ſaid ſick Member or Members, ſhall have his or their Dinner ſent him, if he or they requeſt the ſame, and every Member ſhall pay up all Arrears which ſhall be due, that Day, or be fined five Shillings.

A Dinner to be provided, at every annual Meeting, and each Member to receive 2s. out of the Fund in order to defray the expence thereof.

Every Member to pay up all arrears that Day, or be fined 5s.

THAT the contributions to be raiſed, ſhall be placed out at Intereſt, or in the Funds, in the name or names of ſuch of the Committee, as ſhall be agreed upon, in truſt nevertheleſs for the

the purpoſes of this Aſſociation.

Contributions to be raiſed, to be placed out at Intereſt.

AND it is hereby further agreed by and between the ſaid Parties of the firſt part, that the major part of the Members of this Society, ſhall at every Annual Meeting, and at no other time, have a power and are hereby enabled, to make ſuch Bye-Laws and Orders, as they ſhall think proper, for the better regulation and government of this Society, and to reſerve, reſcind, or alter the ſame, at every ſuch Annual Meeting, and at no other time, all which Bye-Laws, Orders or Reverſals ſhall be entered by the Clerk in the Book of this Society, and ſhall be ſigned by the major part of the Members preſent, and after ſuch entry and ſigning the ſame ſhall be of as much force and efficacy as if the ſame had been inſerted in theſe preſents. In Witneſs whereof the ſaid parties have to theſe preſents ſet their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year firſt herein before written.

Major part of the Members to have power to make Bye-Laws, &c. at the annual Meeting.

Sealed and Delivered (being firſt duly Stamped) in the preſence of

Chriſtopher Bainbridge.

BRITISH
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